In the claims:

Please cancel claims 3, 4, 20, 30, 33, 45, and 47; and add new claims 55-57.

1. (Amended) An oligomeric compound conjugated to [a ligand] an arylpropionic acid that interacts with a protein.

2. (Amended) The oligomeric compound of claim 1 wherein said [ligand] arylpropionic acid binds to said protein.

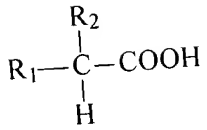
5. (Amended) The oligomeric compound of claim [3] 1 wherein said [drug moiety is aspirin, phenylbutazone,] arylpropionic acid is ibuprofen, suprofen, fenbufen, ketoprofen, (*S*)-(+)-pranoprofen, [palmityl] or carprofen.

6. (Amended) The oligomeric compound of claim [3] 5 wherein said [drug moiety] arylpropionic acid is ibuprofen.

11. (Amended) The oligomeric compound of claim 1 further including a linking group attaching said [ligand] arylpropionic acid to said oligomeric compound.

13. (Amended) The oligomeric compound of claim 1 wherein said compound [is an oligonucleotide comprising] comprises a plurality of nucleosides connected by covalent internucleoside linkages.

21. (Amended) The oligomeric compound of claim [20] 1 wherein said arylpropionic acid has the formula:



wherein:

[one of] R_1 and R_2 [is C_1 to C_{12} alkyl and the other of R_1 and R_2 is aryl; or

both R_1 and R_2 are C_1 to C_{12} alkyl; or

both R_1 and R_2 are aryl] are each independently C_1 to C_{12} alkyl or aryl.

26. (Amended) A method of increasing the concentration of an oligonucleotide in serum comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting [a drug moiety] an arylproprionic acid that is known to bind to a serum protein;

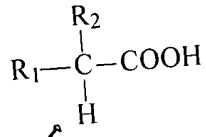
(b) conjugating said [drug moiety] arylpropionic acid to said oligonucleotide to form a conjugated oligonucleotide; and

(c) adding said conjugated oligonucleotide to said serum.

29. (Amended) The method of claim 26 wherein said [drug moiety] arylpropionic acid is [aspirin, warfarin, phenylbutazone,] ibuprofen, suprofen, fenbufen, ketoprofen, (*S*)-(+)-pranoprofen, or carprofen[, naproxen, dansylsarcosine, 2,3,5-triiodobenzoic acid, flufenamic acid, folinic acid, mycophenolic acid, a benzothiadiazide, chlorothiazide, a diazepine, indomethicin, a barbiturate, a cephalosporin, a sulfa drug, an antidiabetic, an antibacterial or an antibiotic].

31. (Amended) The method claim 26 wherein said arylpropionic acid [drug moiety] is ibuprofen.

34. (Amended) The method of claim 26 wherein said arylpropionic acid has the formula:



wherein:

[one of] R_1 and R_2 [is C_1 to C_{12} alkyl and the other of R_1 and R_2 is aryl; or

both R_1 and R_2 are C_1 to C_{12} alkyl; or

both R_1 and R_2 are aryl] are each independently C_1 to C_{12} alkyl or aryl.

39. (Amended) A method of increasing the capacity of serum for an oligonucleotide comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting [a drug moiety] an arylpropionic acid that is known to bind to a serum protein;

(b) conjugating said [drug moiety] arylpropionic acid to said oligonucleotide to form a conjugated oligonucleotide; and

(c) adding said conjugated oligonucleotide to said serum.

40. (Amended) The method of claim 39 wherein said serum protein is a protein having a binding site for said [drug moiety] arylpropionic acid.

42. (Amended) The method of claim 39 wherein said serum protein is a protein having a binding site for said oligonucleotide and a binding site for said [drug moiety] arylpropionic acid; wherein said binding site for said oligonucleotide is distinct from said binding site for said [drug moiety] arylpropionic acid.

43. (Amended) A method of increasing the binding of an oligonucleotide to a portion of the vascular system comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting [a drug moiety] an arylpropionic acid is that is known to bind to a protein that resides, in part, in the circulating serum and in part in a non-circulating portion of the vascular system;

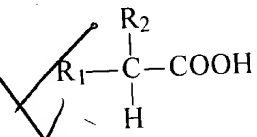
(b) conjugating said [drug moiety] arylpropionic acid is to said oligonucleotide to form a conjugated oligonucleotide; and

(c) adding said conjugated oligonucleotide to said vascular system.

44. (Amended) The method of claim 43 wherein said [drug moiety] arylpropionic acid is [aspirin, warfarin, phenylbutazone,] ibuprofen, suprofen, fenbufen, ketoprofen, (*S*)-(+)-pranoprofen, or carprofen[, naproxen, dansylsarcosine, 2,3,5-triiodobenzoic acid,flufenamic acid, folinic acid, mycophenolic acid, a benzothiadiazide, chlorothiazide, a diazepine, indomethicin, a barbiturate, a cephalosporin, a sulfa drug, an antidiabetic, an antibacterial or an antibiotic].

46. (Amended) The method of claim 43 wherein said [drug moiety] arylpropionic acid is ibuprofen.

48. (Amended) The method of claim 43 wherein said arylpropionic acid has the formula:



wherein:

[one of] R_1 and R_2 [is C_1 to C_{12} alkyl and the other of R_1 and R_2 is aryl; or

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both R_1 and R_2 are C_1 to C_{12} alkyl; or

both R_1 and R_2 are aryl[,] are each independently C_1 to C_{12} alkyl or aryl.

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53. (Amended) A method of promoting cellular uptake of an oligonucleotide in a cell comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting a protein that resides on the cellular membrane and extends, at least in part, on the external side of said membrane;

(b) selecting [a drug moiety] an arylpropionic acid is that is known to bind to said protein;

(c) conjugating said [drug moiety] arylpropionic acid to said oligonucleotide to form a conjugated oligonucleotide; and

(d) exposing said cell to said conjugated oligonucleotide.

--55. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 10 wherein said serum protein is human serum albumin.

56. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 28 wherein said serum protein is human serum albumin.

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57. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 32 wherein said serum protein is human serum albumin.--

REMARKS

Upon entry of the proposed amendment, claims 1, 2, 5-19, 21-29, 31, 32, 34-44, 46, and 48-57 will be pending. Support for the amended claims can be found throughout the specification. No